



# City of Austin

*District 6*

## **Jimmy Flannigan, Council Member**

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## **FY21 Flannigan Budget Rider 2**

### **Austin Police Department Reconstruction of Sworn-Staff Responsibilities and Operations**

The City Manager is directed to explore the creation of new departments of public safety with sworn leadership for patrol, investigations, traffic safety, and professional standards. The City Manager is directed to report on this proposal to the Public Safety Committee within six months of budget adoption.

Reconstructing the "Austin Police Department" into distinct departments with independent department heads will allow for each department to have separate metrics and oversight, thereby creating a path to shift organizational culture and drive more equitable outcomes. This will also eliminate some of the existing APD executive leadership positions. In part, this concept is a response to requirements in state law that mandate sworn staff have a sworn "department head" but do not require a single Chief.

The size of these departments is more in-line with the size of other city departments, putting them on-par in terms of organizational influence. It would also mean that dollars allocated to one area of operations could not be reallocated to another without council-approval of a budget amendment (and therefore public review).

Here is a breakdown of the potential proposed departments:

#### **Department of Patrol**

- Sworn Director of Patrol designated by the city manager and approved by the city council (according to state law). This department head could be designated as one of the 5 commanders that make up a geographically broad "Commander's Council" to help democratize patrol leadership, ensure more diverse voices are making state-law-required decisions, and ensure a ready list of alternative department heads if necessary.
- Responsible for DTAC & 4 Regions of patrol, tactical, and district reps

#### **Department of Investigations**

- Sworn Director of Investigations designated by the city manager and approved by the city council (according to state law)
- Responsible for detectives, investigations, and organized crime units

#### Department of Traffic Safety

- Sworn Director of Traffic Safety designated by the city manager and approved by the city council (according to state law).
- Works in partnership with the Austin Transportation Department and should have mobility-focused civilian executive management in the Manager's office.

#### Department of Professional Standards

- Sworn Director of Professional Standards designated by the city manager and approved by the city council (according to state law).
- Covers Internal Affairs, Recruiting, and Training. Future cadet class decisions would impact this part of the budget and would help separate those dollars from being reallocated without Council authority.